EAST BAY EXPRESS



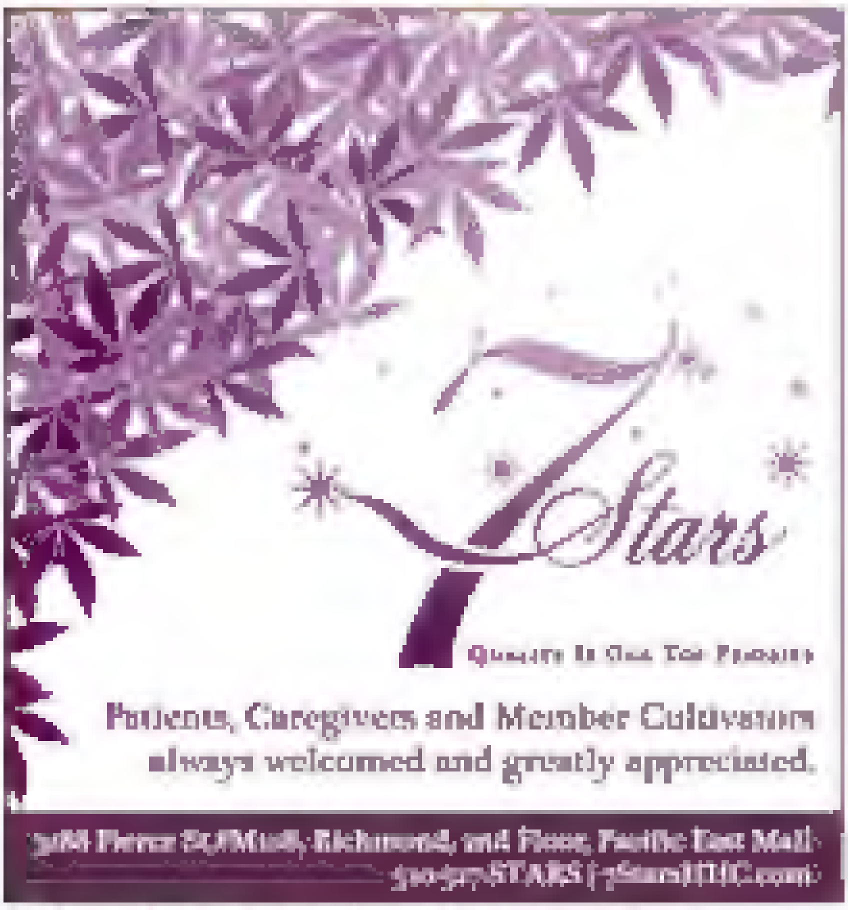
LICENSE TO MAKE BELIEVE

See page 28

INSIDE: See our feature story, "Salmon RIP?" page 16,
and the news story, "Oakland's Lump of Coal for Businesses," page 15.



CONTENTS



EAST BAY EXPRESS

EDITORIAL

BUSINESS

ADVERTISING

ART & PRODUCTION

CIRCULATION


LOVE
OAKLAND?
Put your money where your is
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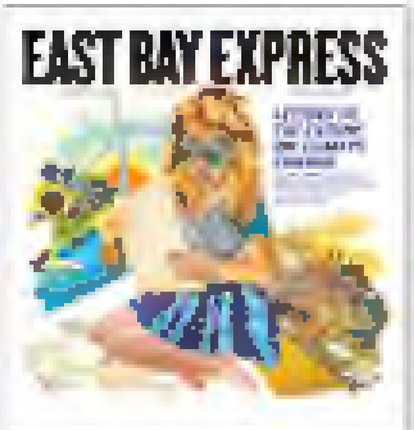
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LETTERS

The City of Oakland Responds

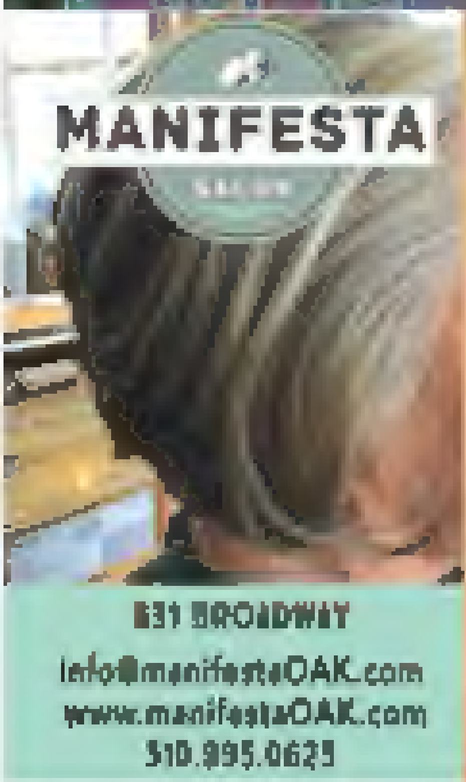
Darwin BondGraham Responds

We Need to Change


Tamarindo

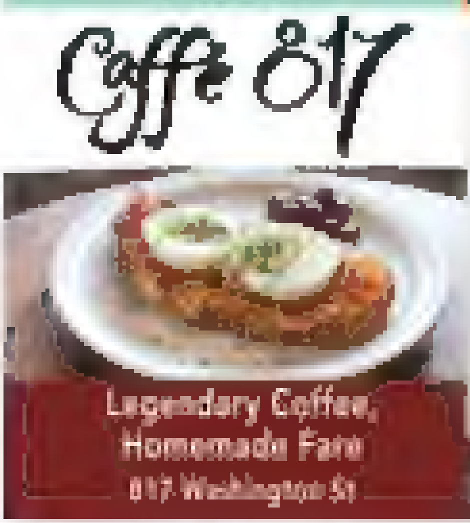

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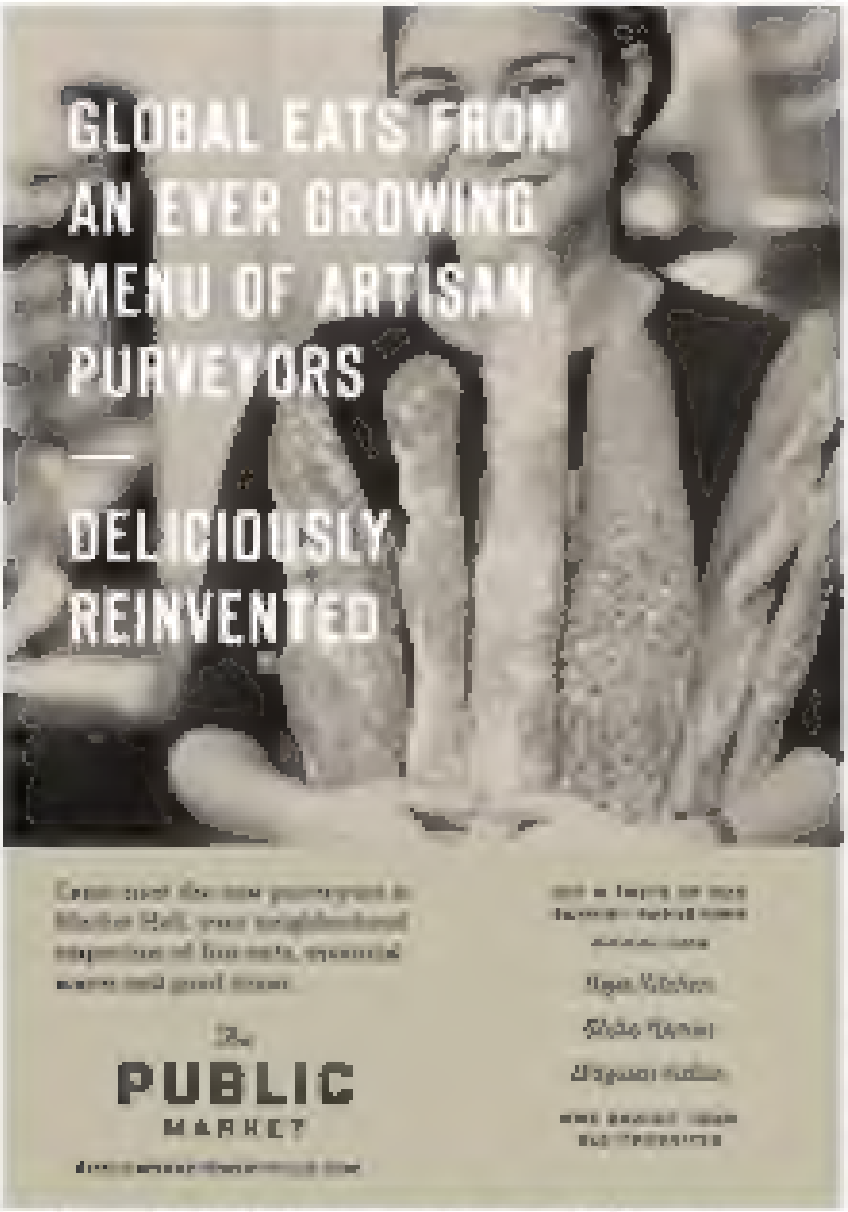

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Homemade Fare
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MARION & ROSE'S
WORKSHOP
AMERICAN MADE FINE GOODS
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UMAMIMART.COM





[illegible]

Great Letters

[illegible]

Rent Control Isn't the Answer

[illegible]

Burdening Landlords Isn't the Answer, Either

[illegible]

No Evidence

[illegible]

Stop Scapegoating Landlords

[illegible]

It's Not So Simple

[illegible]

his personal right to belong to the much maligned Communist Party?

The issue the film raises is thoughtfully ambiguous in complex. On the one hand, it was, indeed, a travesty to have writers and directors kept from working for any film company because of their association with a despised political organization — that is, there was no justification for an across-the-board blacklisting of these artists, and if they could, I have no doubt that some more liberal producers would have hired the likes of Trumbo if they themselves would not have feared being subsequently punished for doing so.

On the other hand, it is indeed a producer's right not to have to hire anyone, no matter how talented, if the producer had no desire to employ an artist who was or had been a member of a political party that the producer found repugnant to his values. And given that the Communist Party had sworn to destroy the capitalist United States, and that its parent organization in the Soviet Union had murdered millions and politically enslaved millions more, we can understand why a good number of producers would not wish to have anything to do with a writer or director affiliated with the Communist Party.

Today, there's yet another irony. Many of the left would doubtless value Trumbo's fine screen play for *Spartacus*. On the other hand, the left associated with the Communist Party hated the fine Trumbo-penned film about Israel's founding, *Exodus*, a movie that incidentally holds up quite well — to the chagrin of today's virulent anti-Israel lefty activists.

[illegible], Berkeley

Outsource City Hall

What a mess! Evidently it takes a lot of chemicals to lower Oakland's "parcel count."

As with other Oakland civic enterprises, like the cops and the schools, the city seems to do better when some other jurisdiction takes over after an flash-out.

Lately, Oakland's housing market is gradually being dominated by out-of-towners. People are also from other parts of the Bay Area to open trendy restaurants and bars. Oakland's downtown developments sure aren't mostly homegrown.

Maybe we should simply outsource City Hall as a whole or just join another city. I wonder if San Leandro or Fremont would be interested in incorporating Oakland.

Robert Johnson, Oakland

Stranger than Fiction

Maybe we can get mystery writer Donna Leon to switch the setting locale from Venice, Italy to Oakland, California — this is the perfect set-up for one of her crime novels.

Cindy Wright, Oakland

Answers, Please

I'm very glad that this article was written, but the glaring omission from the article is: Why does the City of Oakland have so much hazardous waste to deal with in the first place? Where are these toxics coming from, and what are they doing being stored in a populated area? Are they collected from households; are they products ordered by the City of Oakland with our tax money and then not fully utilized? Are they products of commerce and industry?

[illegible], Oakland

Time to Recall Brown

When are these money problems going to begin that we can't buy more water? If it isn't falling from the sky, we can't revive an atrium system once we kill it off, and we have no other replacement we can "invest" to ones they have looted them, ah and water for all the money?

I'm not much of one to favor a recall effort, except in this case. It's past time for the governor to go. Between this and his twin tunnels, he's ruining California.

[illegible], [illegible]

Brown is a Rapacious Knave

California — the seventh to eighth largest regional economy in the world — is governed by a possessing rapacious grandiose knave, general to ensure the source of his devouring hypocritical material greed.

So it clearly appears from your article.

(And, as it happens, he's terrifyingly punitive when it comes to crime-and-punishment.)

[illegible], Oakland

Thanks!

I am very much enjoying Laurel [illegible] Vigil's articles. Such a good idea to feed a local high school student for interesting and well-written pieces! Thank you!

[illegible], Oakland

Great Job!

Enjoyed [Will Parish's] piece. Keep up the good work and fight! This is Pulitzer-caliber work. I hope it is widely explained and shared.

[illegible], Oakland

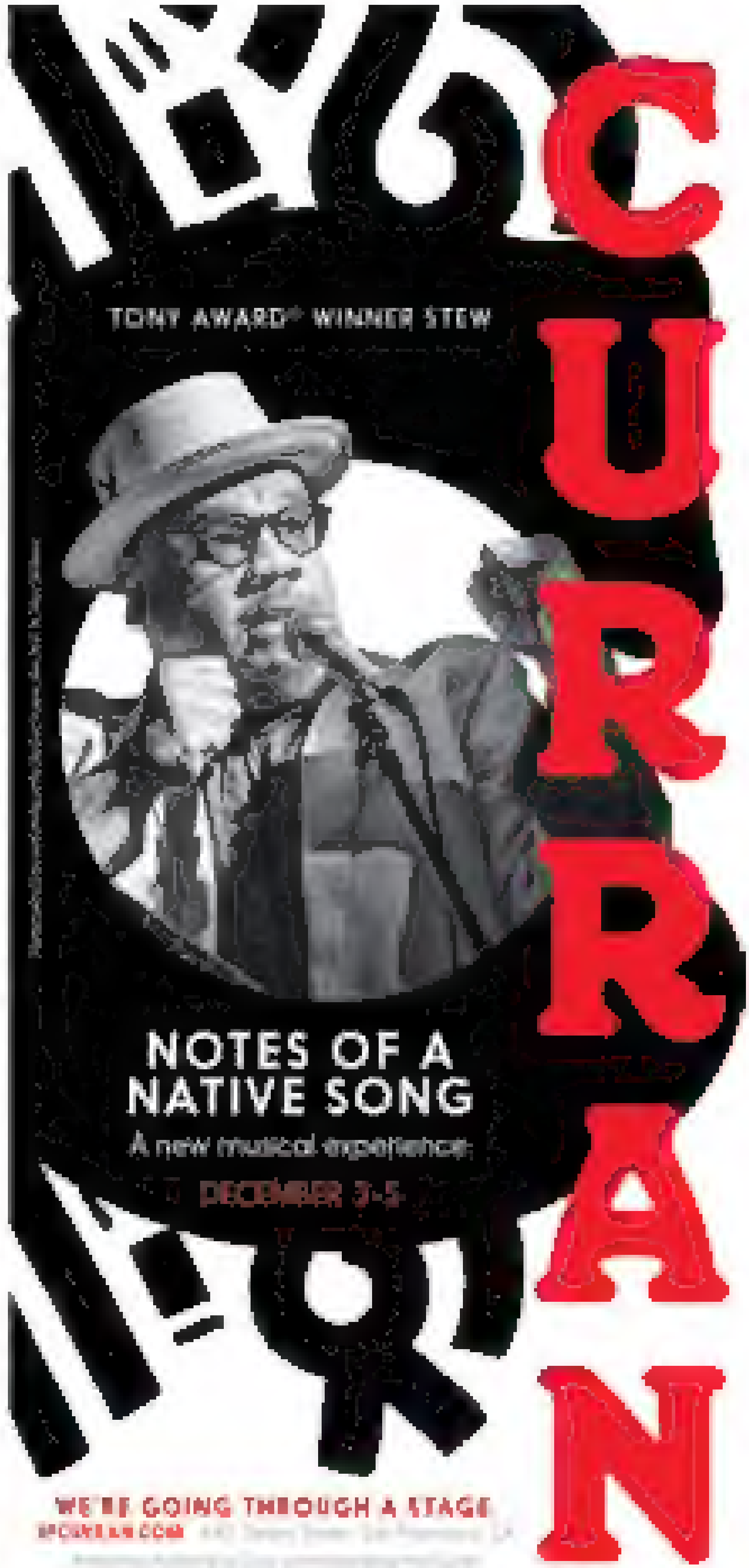
Go, Tim!

Thank you for publishing *The Redwood*. I believe he is the best alternative journalist in the Bay Area and arguably the best in the country.

[illegible], Oakland

Turn Off the Computer

For cryin' out loud! How is not assumed to assume that getting over the loss of what unknown (to you) people in your neighborhood might be up to is more easily







loved by getting out of your house and meeting and talking to your neighbors than reporting them anonymously on a "social" network? Have we become a nation of [illegible] Please [illegible], America.

[illegible], Richmond

Spot On!

Your article was absolutely spot on. I was initially introduced to Nextdoor from a charming gay couple I met at an open house when I was living in North Concord. Being a traditionally white, family-oriented neighborhood, I felt that a recommendation from a couple that didn't fit the average description was a sign this site would be a good thing. And it is, in small ways. Neighbors communicate, get to know each other, and may even actually try to meet others in person, though that seems to be much rarer than anything else that happens on the site.

When I started using the site, I found people selling things, creating events, and trying to make the neighborhood closer. However, I did notice something odd. When an "unknown" Latino person was driving a shiny car, it was a cause of concern. With a fairly large Latino population, it was absolutely a routine occurrence and far from being odd. The only thing that was interesting was people being concerned about it.

After using the app for a year or so, I noticed it started to change. People would post pictures of someone walking down the street and say they looked "suspicious" without any information about why. Then most in my neighborhood would thank the person for posting the information. On more than one occasion, I wrote something as simple as "why don't you say hello" or "why don't you ask if they are lost." I was surprised when I received a huge amount of backlash for this. Often, one would write something to the effect of "why would I endanger myself by talking to a criminal" or some would go so far as say "He obviously a criminal." Occasionally, someone suggested calling the police, simply because someone they did not know was walking down a street. This is when I started really feeling this site may not be such a great thing.

In early 2015, our only African-American neighbors moved out. That was a big changing point for our family as my wife was now the only African American on our street.

The site then got really strange in a very bad way. Two African-American males were driving a U-Haul truck and my Nextdoor app blew up. "Be on alert, there are two African American males driving a U-Haul with Arizona plates by the pool." They seemingly made a wrong turn, and the chatter started that they "were obviously trying to find homes nobody was at so they can load up everything our neighbors own." Within fifteen minutes, I found pictures of license plates of that U-Haul, pictures of the house they were moving out of, as well as pictures of the people living there.

Surprisingly, suspicion started to play a stronger role than I would have thought. Photos of my vehicles in front of the house were posted on Nextdoor. I explained to concerned people that those have been my neighbors for quite a period of time and it seems to prove to anyone that all the neighbors they would be a problem or doing something wrong. I would guess that one-quarter of the people understood what I was saying, another quarter felt it was reasonable, but it seemed like half of my neighbors' head was on edge, just because an African-American family was moving.

One of the family members I knew best often gave his father some money when he got home, which I had seen happen many times. Unfortunately, there were many eyes on this house at this time from Nextdoor, and he gave his father cash without knowing people were watching him. An exchange of cash between a young Black male and an older Black male was reported on Nextdoor. According to many on the site, it was "obviously a drug deal" and "the police need to get involved." Later, the father walked down the street, something he did almost every single day for the two years I lived there. I read on the site that the same older African-American male was looking in people's yards for things to steal.

I never saw a police car there, but I found it just so odd, and as well as really scary, that a simple wrong turn, combined with a ton of assumptions created such a tale of criminality from neighbors who were doing very normal things. Furthermore, I just could not believe why people would not listen to me, understand that I actually knew them, they were good people, and this activity was not only normal, it was routine and had been for a long time. If nothing had happened in two years, how do these people go from being unpacked to people who would break into homes, sell drugs in their own front yard, and steal out of people's yards while taking a walk?

I don't believe that I ever encountered anyone on Nextdoor who was overtly racist. Instead, I found that a small percent of people were extremely paranoid, and racism was just under the surface. I saw this combination become extremely volatile incredibly quickly. I know that this would have never played out the same if it was an affluent white neighbor, or even an affluent Black neighbor for that matter.

One of the hardest parts of this whole incident was debating if I should tell my neighbors what was going on. How do you tell people that an entire neighborhood is on edge because of your skin color and appearance? I decided to not say anything, knowing that if I could not convince my own neighbors nothing was wrong, I may just end up causing harm.

I really thought Nextdoor would be a great thing, and I used it consistently for over one-and-a-half years. The paranoia, combined with almost racism, made me decide to move on from it the second I moved to Oakland. It offers some great things, but when members can hide behind a profile, it led to several situations where neighbors decided to not meet each other in person, not investigate things beyond a superficial [illegible], and was a source for creating issues or problems, rather than solutions.

I sincerely thank you for writing this article, and I hope people will learn to understand their neighbors and have enough "courage" to go out of their way and


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[illegible]

It Confirmed Our Worst Fears

[illegible]

Not Surprised

[illegible]

Photos Would Help

[illegible]

Online Is Not a Neighborhood

[illegible]

A Brotherhood

[illegible]

Ashamed

[illegible]

Correction

[illegible]

Letters Policy

[illegible]



Affordable Housing on Public Land









A Missed Opportunity

Richmond Police Chief Chris Magnus proved that progressive policing works. It's too bad that the rest of the Bay Area has not yet learned that lesson.

By Robert Gammon


hatch
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Comes Around – and Around – and
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NEWS

Oakland's Lump of Coal for Businesses

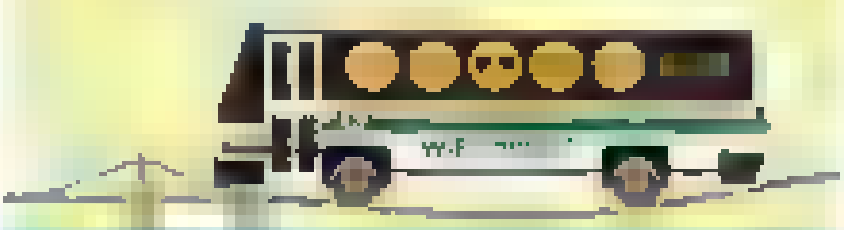
The city says it is helping merchants by offering free parking this holiday season — but experts, including Oakland's own transportation policy director, say the plan will likely have the opposite effect.

By Sam Levin



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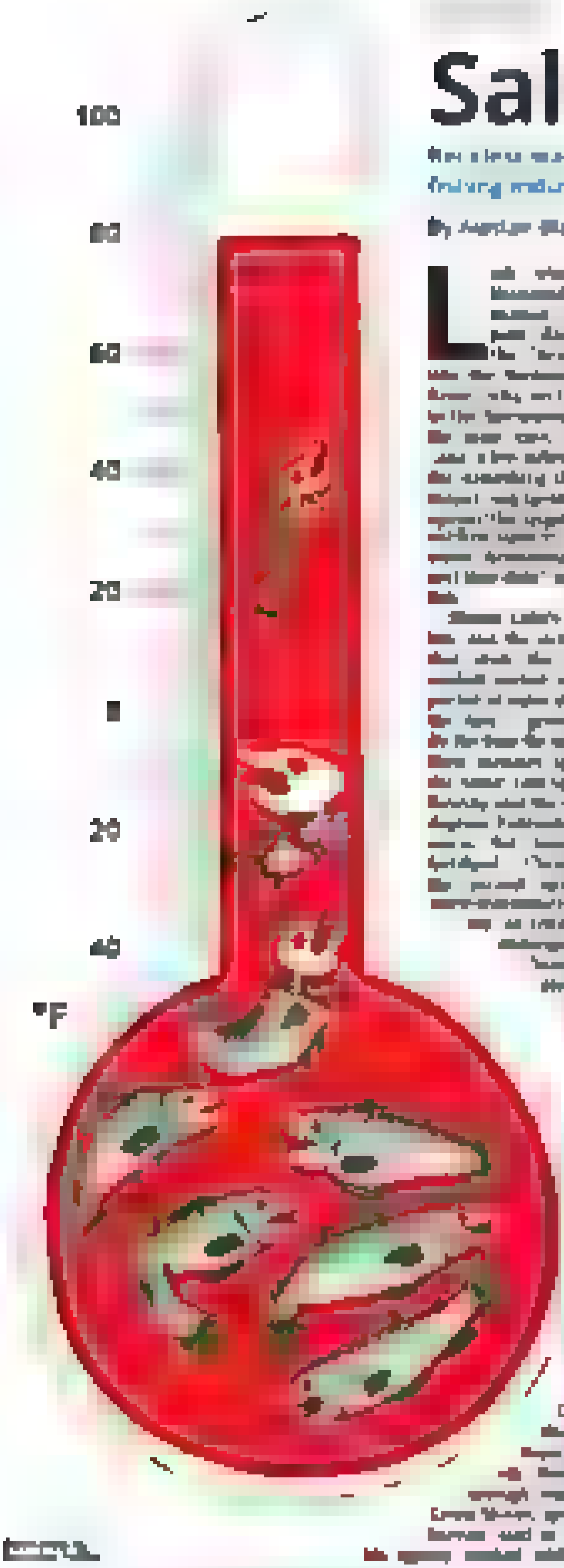



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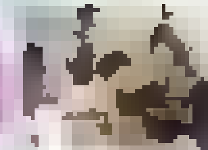

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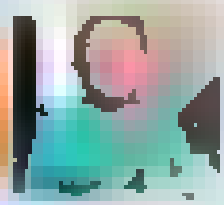


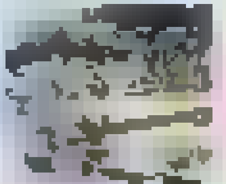






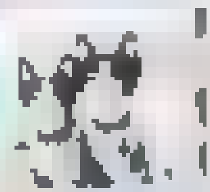




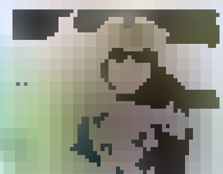




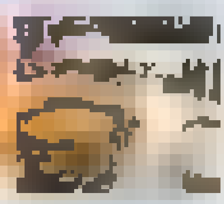


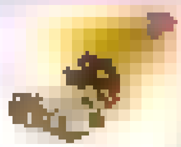








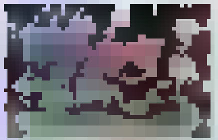






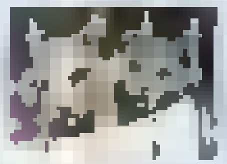
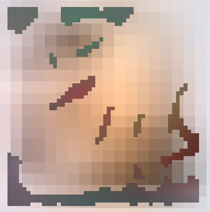




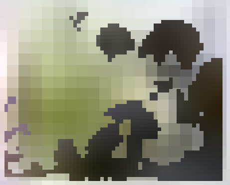
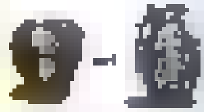
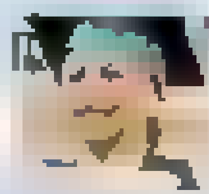













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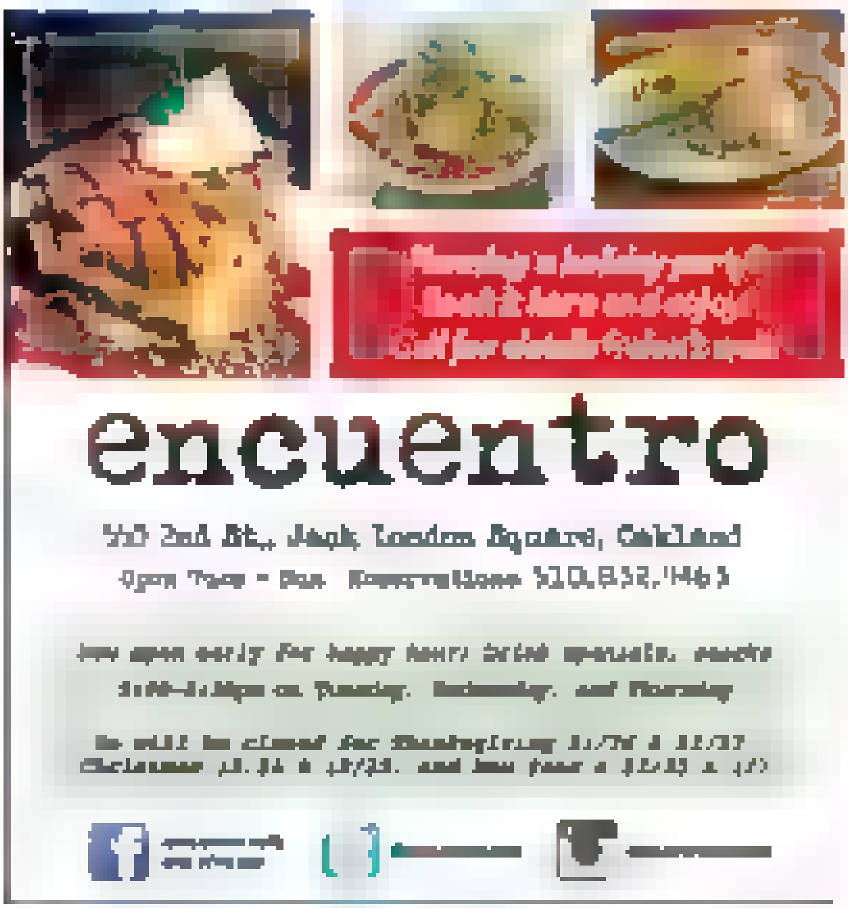
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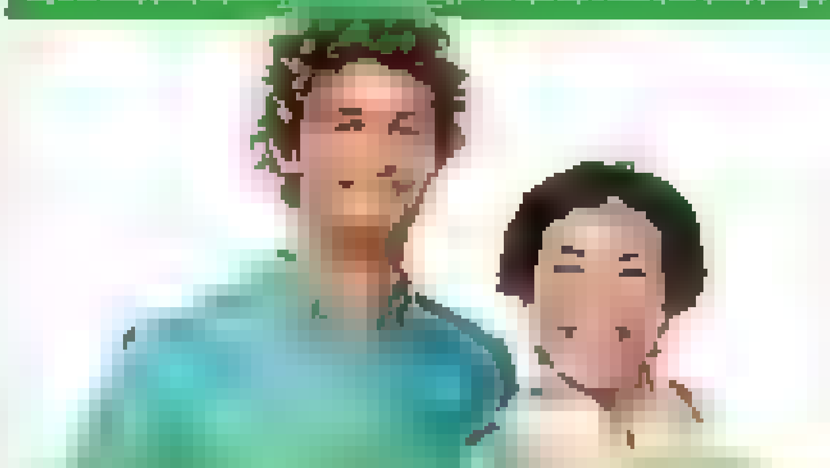




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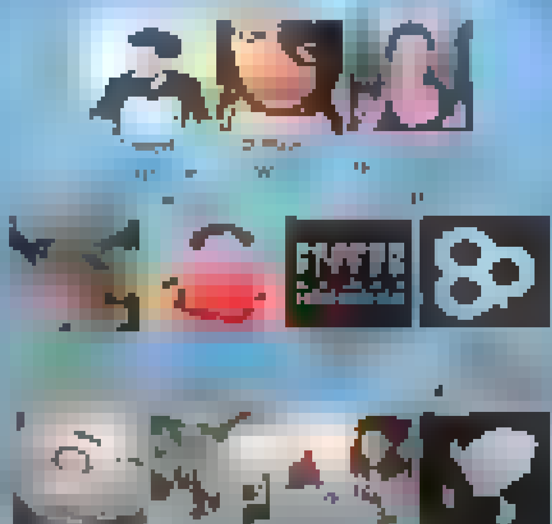
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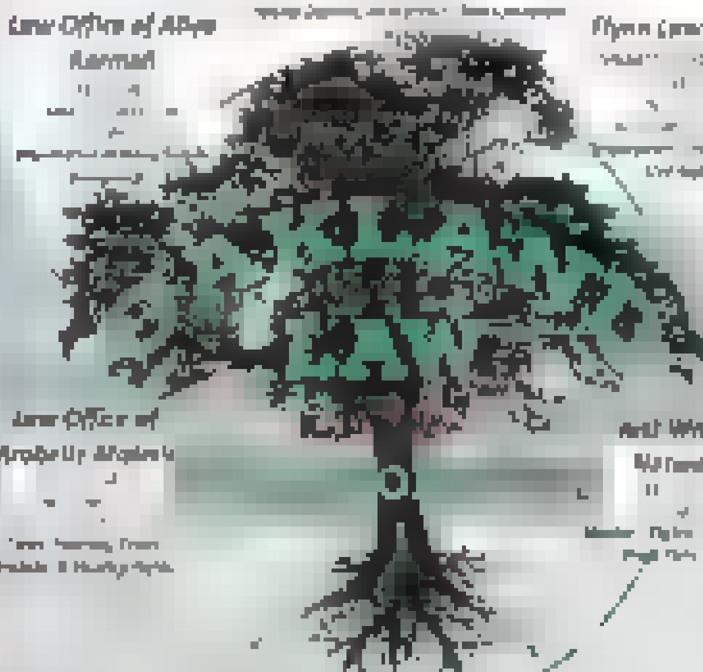
The Oakland Law Collaborative

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OAKLAND'S BELOVED LAUREL DISTRICT

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License to Make Believe

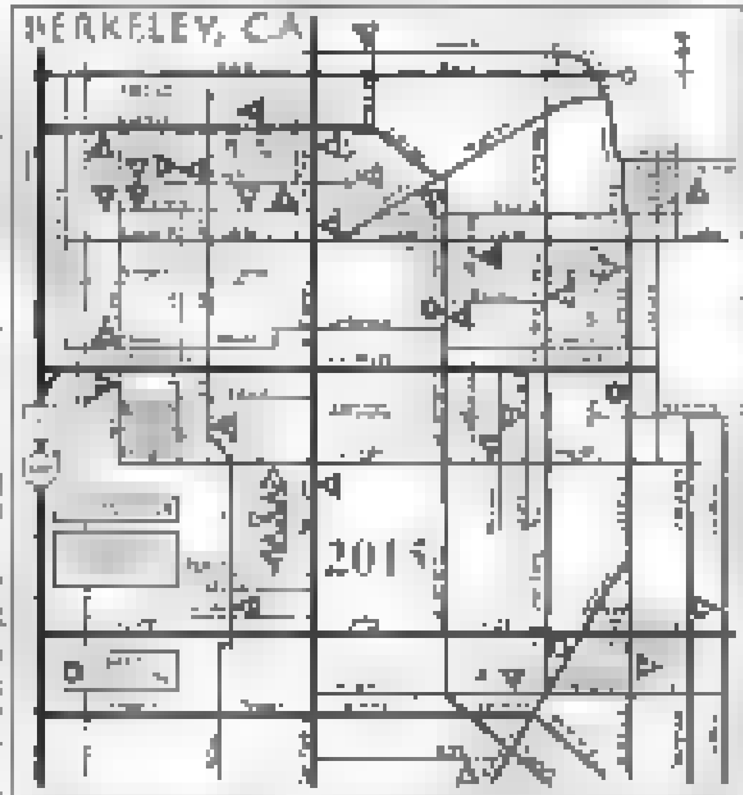
Chapter 510, an Oakland-based youth literacy project, is opening its first writing center, fronted by The Department of Make Believe.

By Sarah Burke

Event Details

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DECEMBER

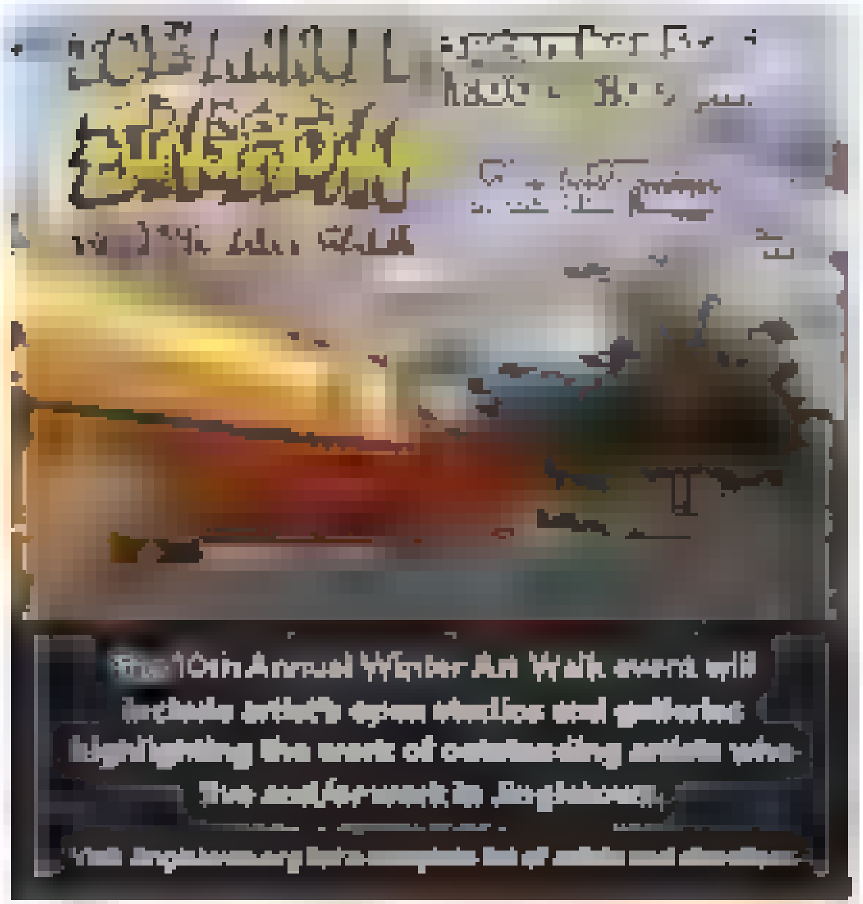
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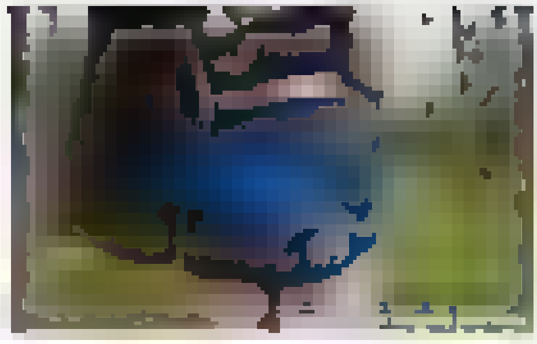
Welcome to Fattyland

Rainbow Boutique owner Natasha Harden is starting a clothing swap soirée for women who are proud of their curves.



Event Details

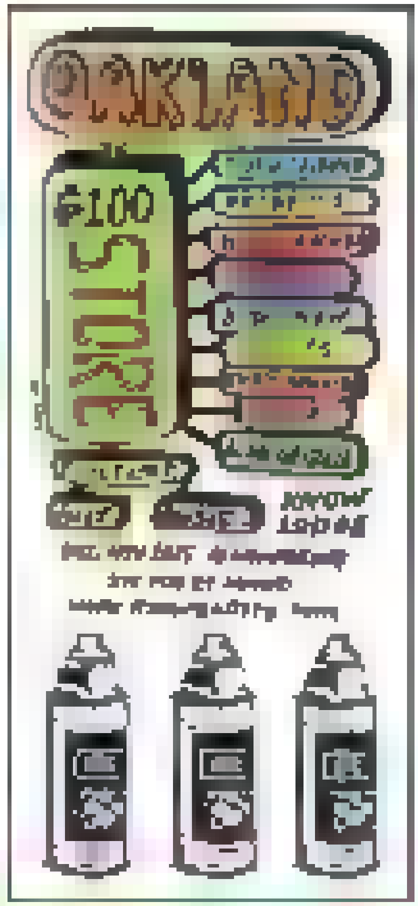

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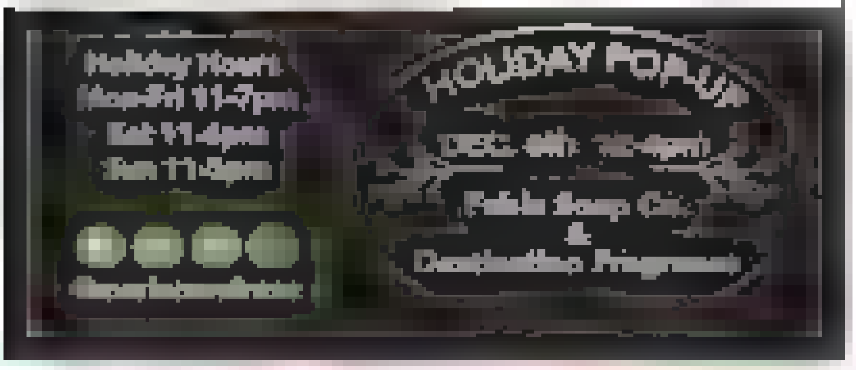

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First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the Express for more information on East Bay art showings

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday December 4th

ALAMEDA

Frank Bette Center

[illegible] Studios & Galleries

ALBANY

Gathering Tribes

BERKELEY

Berkeley Pottery Guild

Berkeley Screenprint Co.

Firehouse Gallery Village Art Studios

Kala Gallery

Urbanity

OAKLAND

The 310 Jefferson Gallery

57th Street Gallery

[illegible] Edwards Gallery

Actual Café

Art & Exhibitions

Awaken Café

Bellevue Club

Black Zoo

Café Van Kleef

The Compound Gallery

Crown Nine Jewelry Boutique and Art Gallery

Portfolio Gallery

Gamma Space

J Rock Design Studio

The Layover

[illegible]

Lobot Gallery

MiX

Oakland First Fridays Street Festival

Oaklandish

The Legionnaire Saloon

[illegible] Gallery

Royal NoneSuch Gallery

[illegible] Gallery

Somar Bar and Lounge

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant

Studio One Art Center

Tech Liminal

Telegraph Beer Garden

Temescal Art Center

The W.E.B. Women's Art & Design Studio

White Box Gallery at Oakland School of the Arts

OAKLAND ART MURMUR

Aggregate Space Gallery

American Steel Studios

Athen B. Gallery

[illegible]

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary

Classic Cars West

Creative Framing and Gallery

Creative Growth Art Center

Era Art Bar

[illegible]

Field Day And Friends

FM

Free Oakland UP

Gearbox Gallery

The Great Wall of Oakland

Interface Gallery

Johansson Projects

Joyce Gordon Gallery

Krowswork

[illegible] Gallery

Maple Street Dance

Marion and Rose's Workshop

Mercury 20

The New Parkway Theater

[illegible] / The Moon

Oakstop

[illegible] Gallery

[illegible]

[illegible]

Rock Paper Scissors Collective

[illegible] Gallery

[illegible] Studios

[illegible]

[illegible]

SLATE contemporary

Studio 11

Transmission Gallery

Uptown Art Park

Vessel Gallery

The Wall Gallery

Warehouse 416

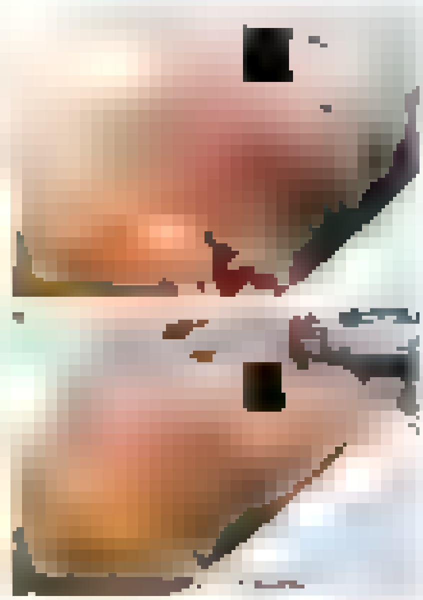
EAST BAY EXPRESS

[illegible]

face reality

THE most respected acne clinic is in the East Bay

Face Reality Acne clinic has cleared thousands of acne sufferers. We have also trained hundreds of professionals including [illegible], doctors, and estheticians.



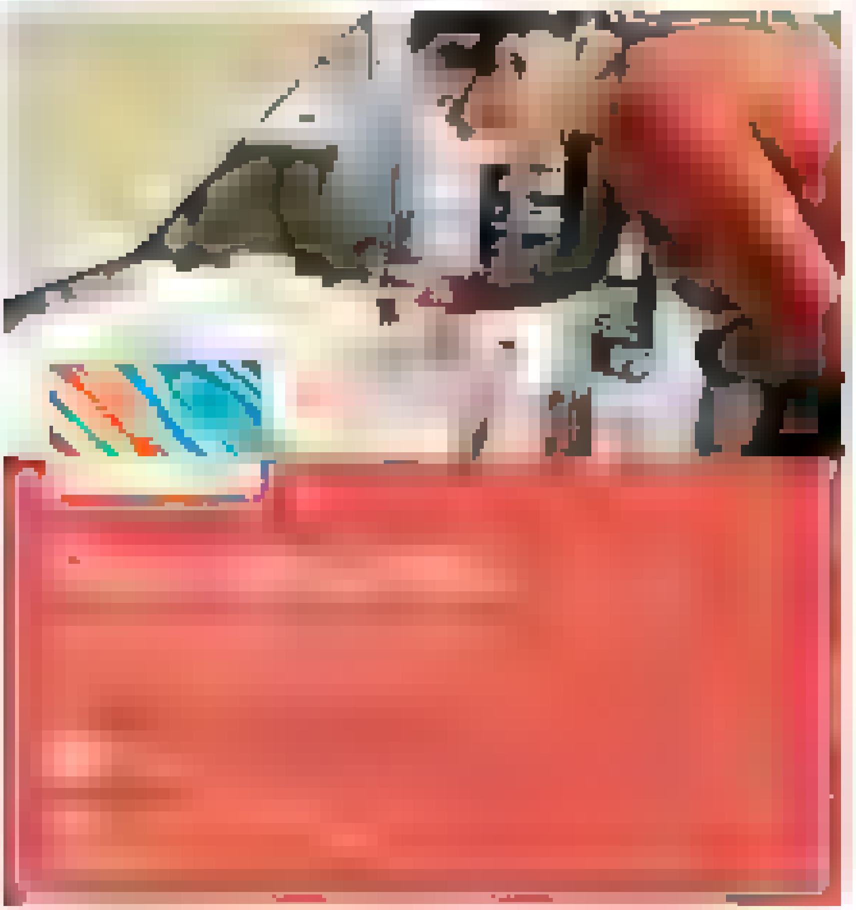
"Face Reality changed my life"

You can find K's entire testimonial on Yelp

[illegible]

FaceRealityAcneClinic.com

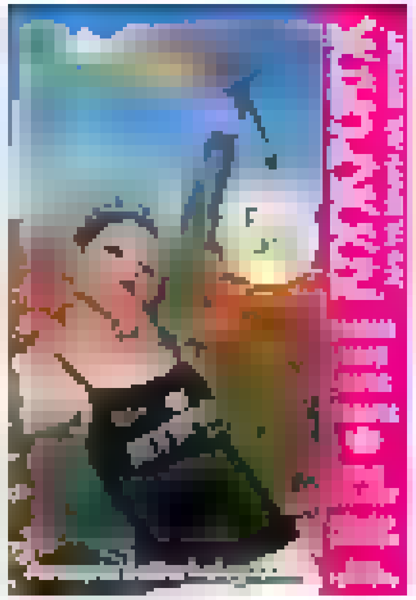




More Listings Online

ReEntry



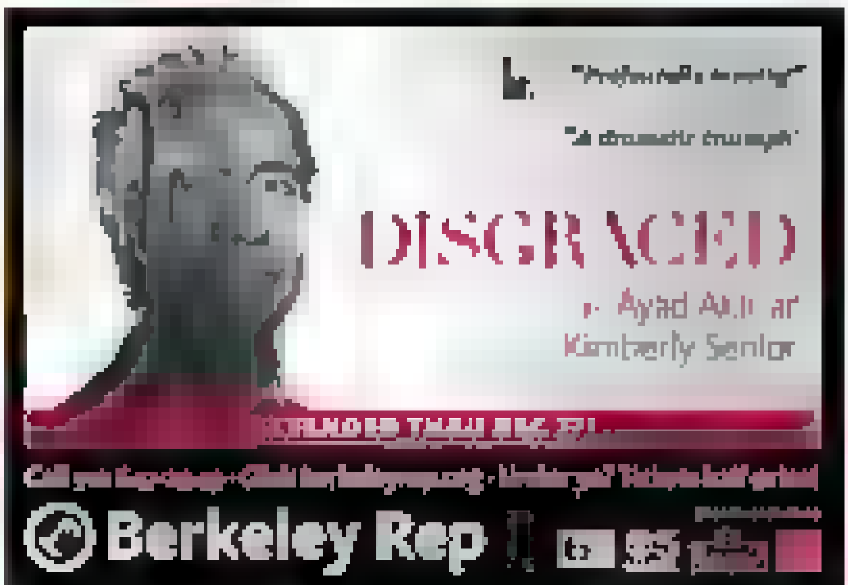


12/12

12/15

9 AM







The Key

By Appointment Only



youth dance classes
Modern Hip-Hop Jazz Ballet
ages 2 - 18

Winter/Spring
Now Enrolling
22-week session
January - June

Registration Now Open
shawl-anderson.org



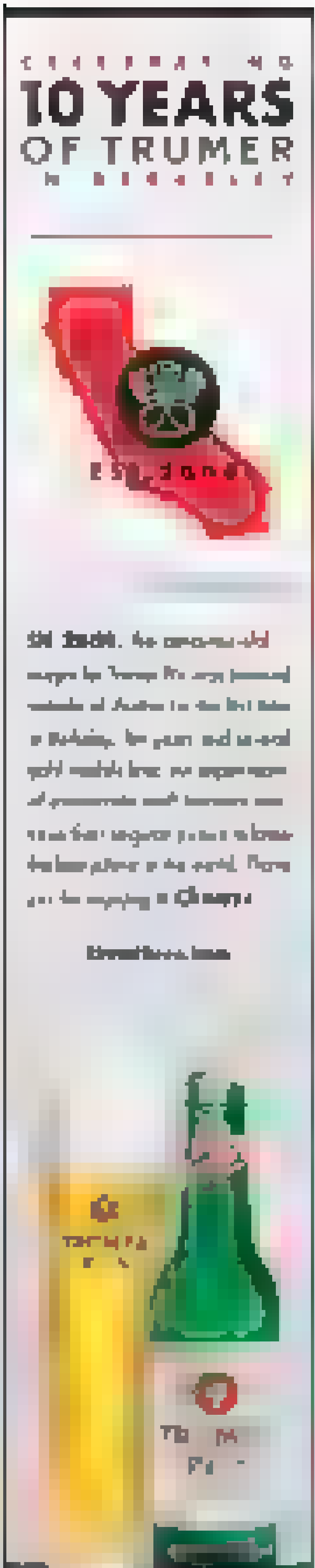
Underground Newspapers of the 1960s and 1970s



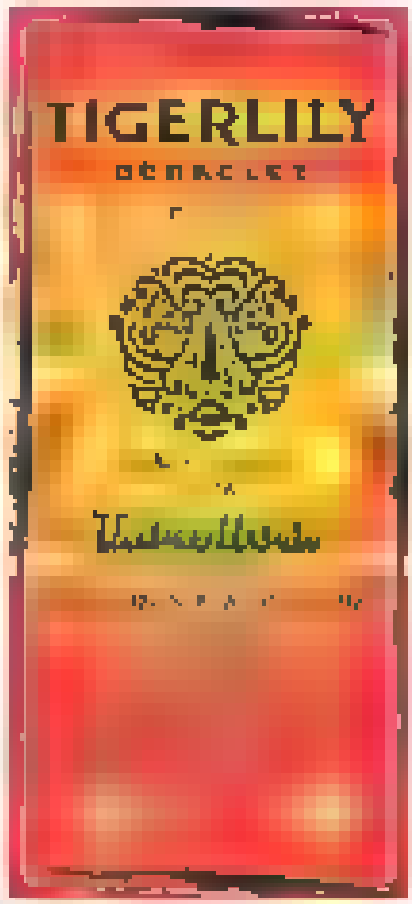

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&
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anniversary sale
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Hound
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Choose from a variety of packages and programs. Contact us for details
FREE
Not sure which program is right for you?









An Egyptian-American Breakfast

At Pyramids Restaurant, cumin-spiced lentil soup might serve as precursor to a plate of pancakes.

By Luke Tsai

Pyramids Restaurant & Grill

Sample Menu



HAPPY HOUR
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY



SPENCER'S



WEEKEND SOUL BRUNCH
OPEN FRIDAY 1/1/16 NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH
Biscuits & Gravy



THE STAR
KITCHEN TO COUCH
The Star Delivers!



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RED
FIND US
THE
MARKETS!




HAPPY HOUR
MARTINIS
&
LATE NIGHT
PUNCH BOWLS

A Half-Baked Innovation

Pizza Matador is what happens when a food delivery service is run by the delivery guys.

By Luke Tsai







Now Featuring
Organic Vegetables

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Monday – Saturday 9AM to 8PM

Sunday 9AM to 7PM

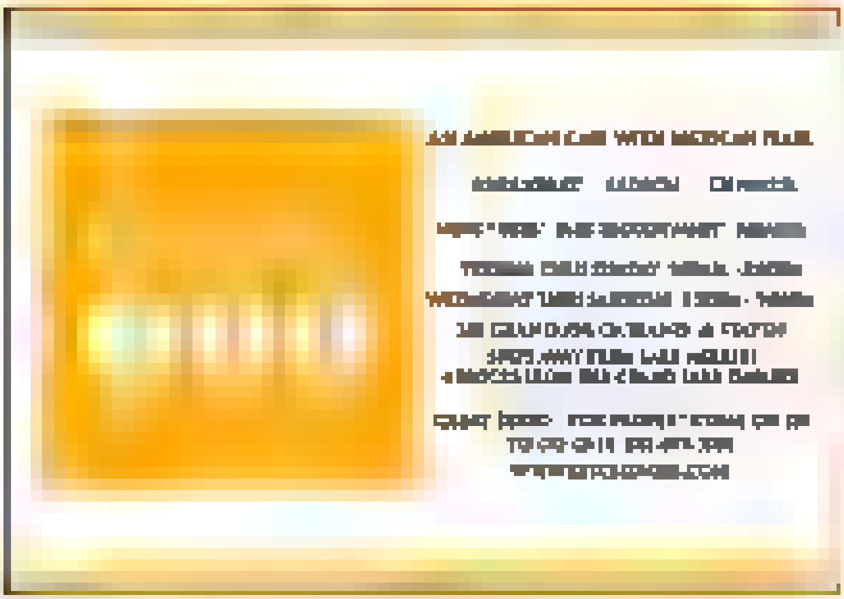
Middle Eastern Restaurants in Oakland and Berkeley

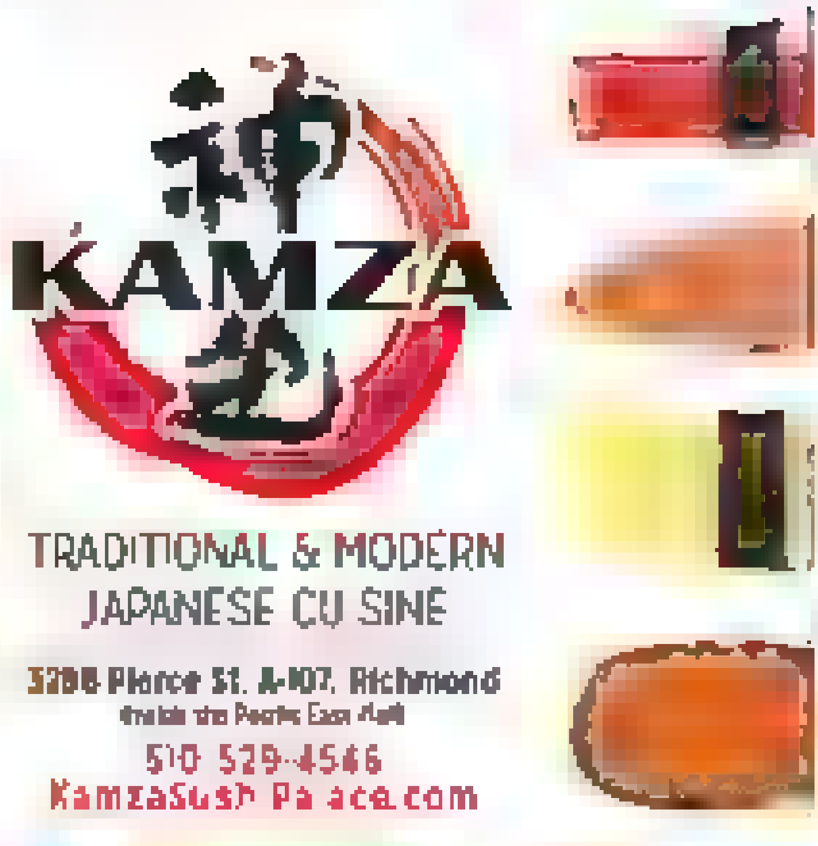
The Advocate

Ali Baba Grill

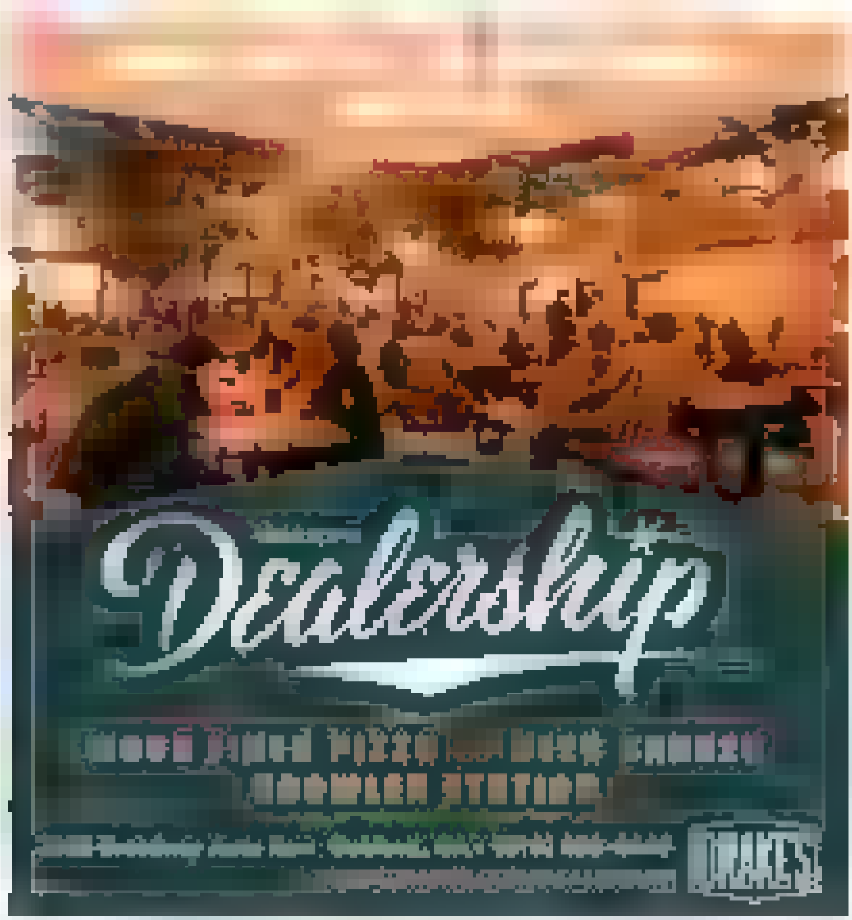
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CAN'T FAIL CAFE
Celebrating our 13th year in the East Bay!


Dealership

A Spanish paella bar with a

Happy Hour
4:30-6PM

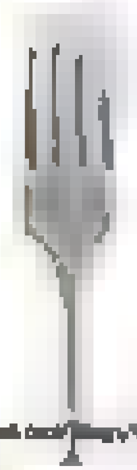


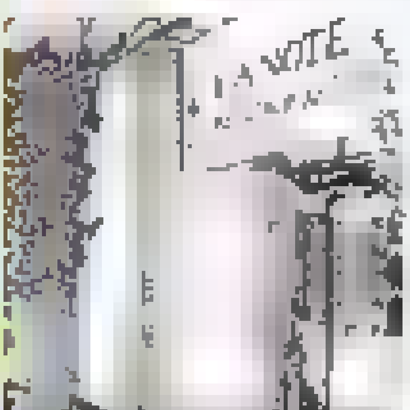
Now you can enjoy our happy hour while sitting outdoors. Bike & Dog friendly too!

RESTAURANT HOURS
WED - SAT
4:30-9:30 PM

BUMAS
PIZZERIA

What The




RESTAURANT
PROVENCAL

Yo Sushi

Kamdesh Afghan Kabob House

Liba Falafel

Oasis Grill

Penrose

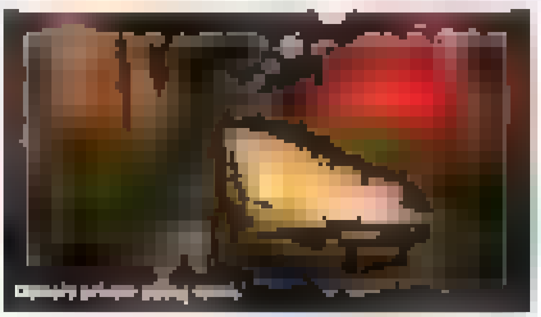
Shakewell

Turkish Kitchen

Zatar

Price Key

[illegible]

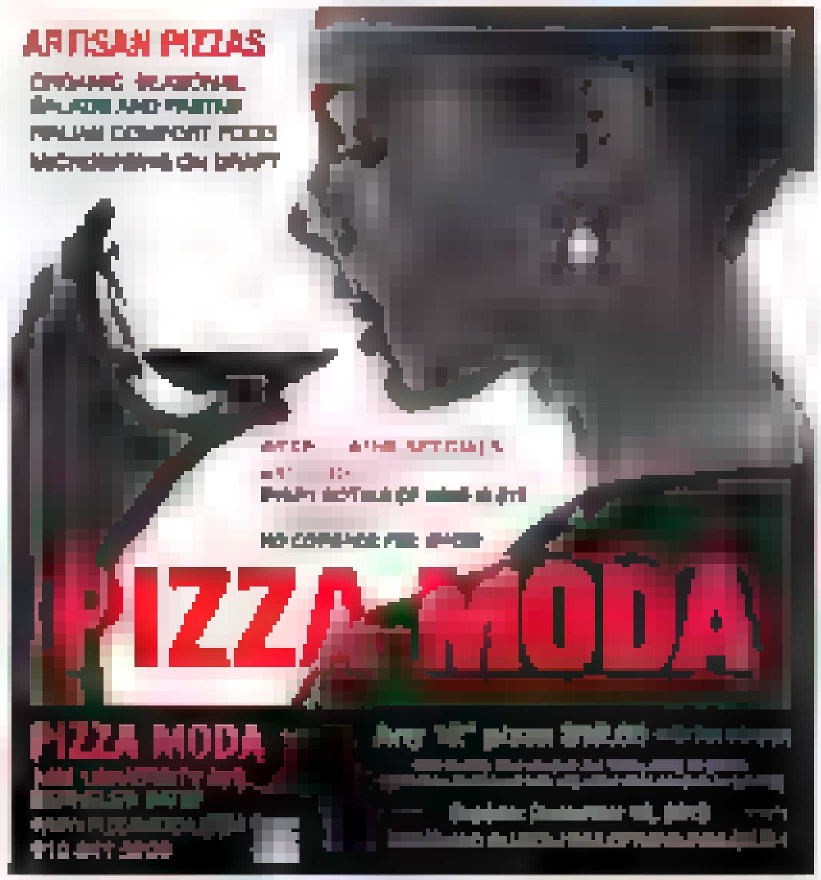


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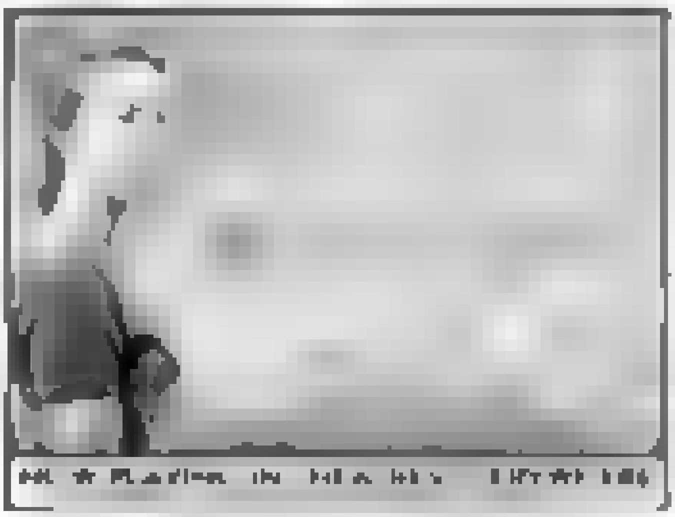


Legend

Janis: Little Girl Blue

Showtimes Online







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FREE POPCORN

ON WEDNESDAYS

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OAKLAND'S ONLY HISTORIC PIANO BAR

Why Support Local Indie

Ashkenaz

Off-the-Cuff Instrumentation & Astral Neo-Soul



Misanthropic Rock

On its new album *Early Life*, Oakland quartet Marston expertly pushes its instruments to their extremes to create an unclassifiable sound that's alien and austere.

By Nada Vaynshtayn







THURSDAY 3

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

FRIDAY 4

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

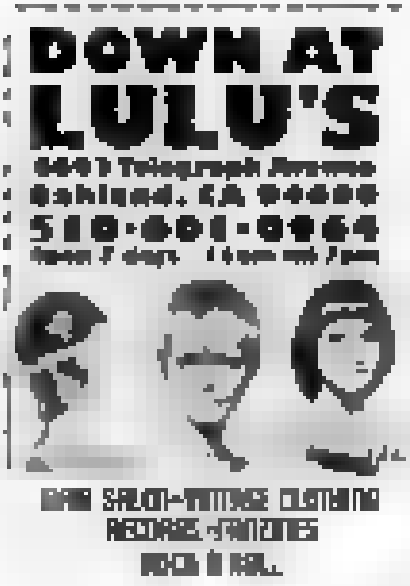
Blues, Folk, & Country

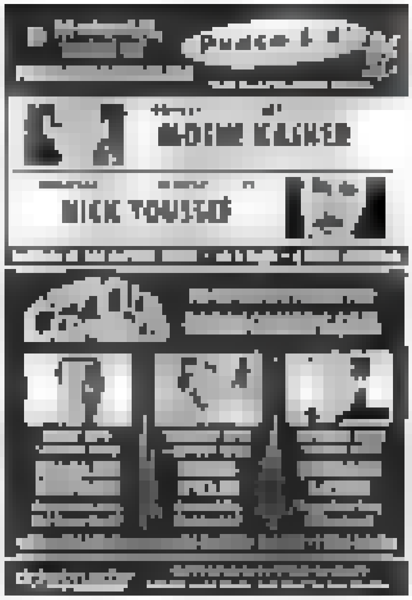
Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

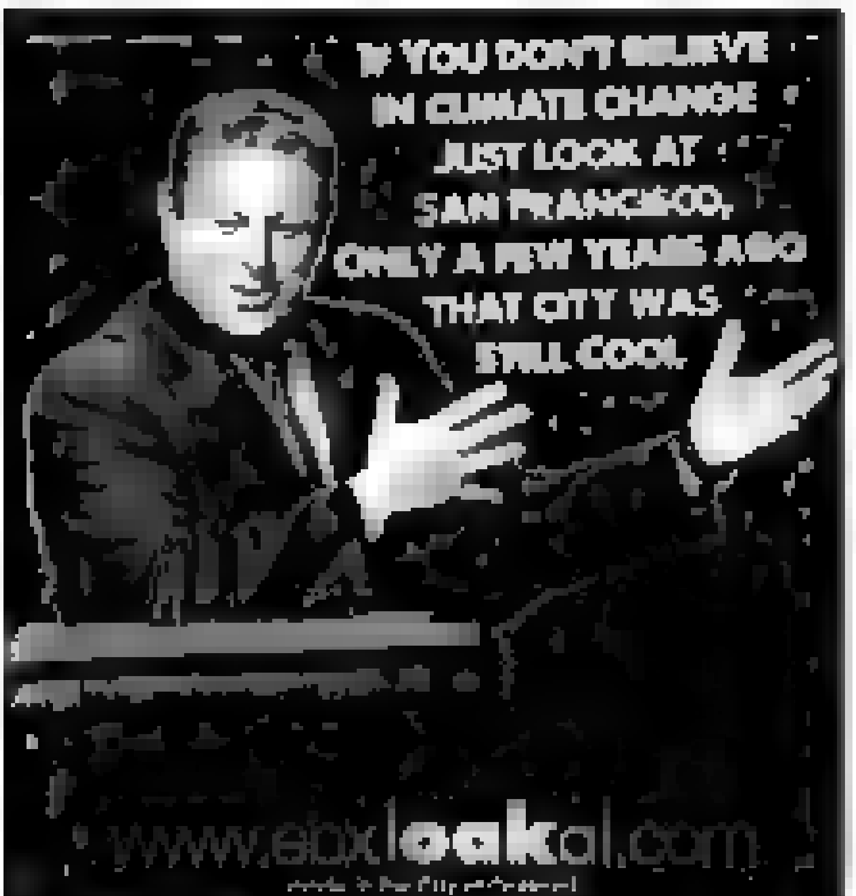

THE
AVETT
BROTHERS
THE MILK CARTON KIDS
GREEK THEATRE
at UC BERKELEY
ON SALE
FRIDAY!


FOX
OAKLAND
JENNIFER
BRANDY CLARK
CHASE RICE
THE DEVIL MAKES THREE









The Weeknd



SATURDAY 5

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

All Ages

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Gospel & Vocal

Holiday Music

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

SUNDAY 6

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

NIGHT LIGHT

THE TERRACE ROOM

LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE

THURSDAY & FRIDAY NIGHTS COMING BACK IN JANUARY!

NO COVER 7-10PM

DJ TOPH ONE

RYAN SCOTT LONG TRIO

FLOWTILLA

Legionnaire

BOOK YOUR PARTY

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

MONDAY 7

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

TUESDAY 8

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Kids

Rock & Pop

Blues, Folk, & Country

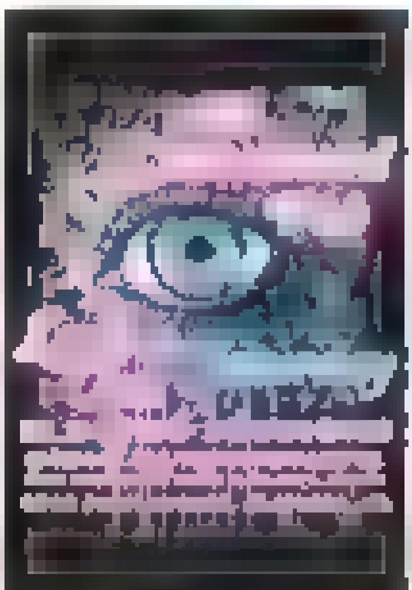
Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

WEDNESDAY 9




Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

VENUE DIRECTORY EAST BAY

BRIEFS 2016

EROTIC SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Calling All Filmmakers!

Submission Deadline

Submissions must be in by January 28, 2016

Screening Date is February 11, 2016

Registration & More Information

EastBayExpress.com/EBXBriefs

EAST BAY EXPRESS





THURSDAY 3

FRIDAY 4

Giorgio Moroder

SATURDAY 5

SAN FRANCISCO

SUNDAY 6

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

MONDAY 7

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

TUESDAY 8

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

WEDNESDAY 9

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO









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The Sister Act

So, you snooped and found out your boyfriend slept with his ex's sister. What now?

By Dan Savage

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